The Signal

Inflatable Amusement Devices: Wait To Inflate

Raising awareness around regulation requirements and safe use of inflatable amusement devices.

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Inflatable Amusement Devices: Wait To Inflate

Inflatable amusement devices have become increasingly popular in Nova Scotia, sparking both enthusiasm and concern over safety in recent years. The Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration (LSI), Safety Branch has been working proactively to address these concerns. Ongoing initiatives highlight important regulation requirements for businesses, operators, and renters that often provide these devices for events like fairs, carnivals, exhibitions, and backyard gatherings.

Central to these efforts is our new "Wait to Inflate" awareness campaign, which you may have seen popping up on your social media feeds lately, including Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly known as Twitter). This campaign aims to educate Nova Scotians about inflatable safety, providing necessary information for new or small rental businesses to ensure their devices and operators comply with our Acts and regulations, while also informing the public on how they can continue to enjoy these devices safely and responsibly.

Inflatables fall under the Amusement Devices Unit of the Technical Safety Division, which oversees and regulates their use in Nova Scotia. This includes mandatory training, licensing, and regulation for inflatable owners and mechanics. Learn more by visiting the Amusement Devices: Classifications & Licence Requirements section of the Technical Safety website.

For additional information and general safety guidelines, check out the Inflatable Amusement Devices Safety Bulletin. With the right information and precautions, everyone can enjoy a fun and safe experience with inflatable amusement devices all summer long.

Safety Bulletin: Inflatable Amusement Devices

Website: Amusement Devices

NOVA SCOTIA

Safety Information Made Simple

Nova **SAFE**

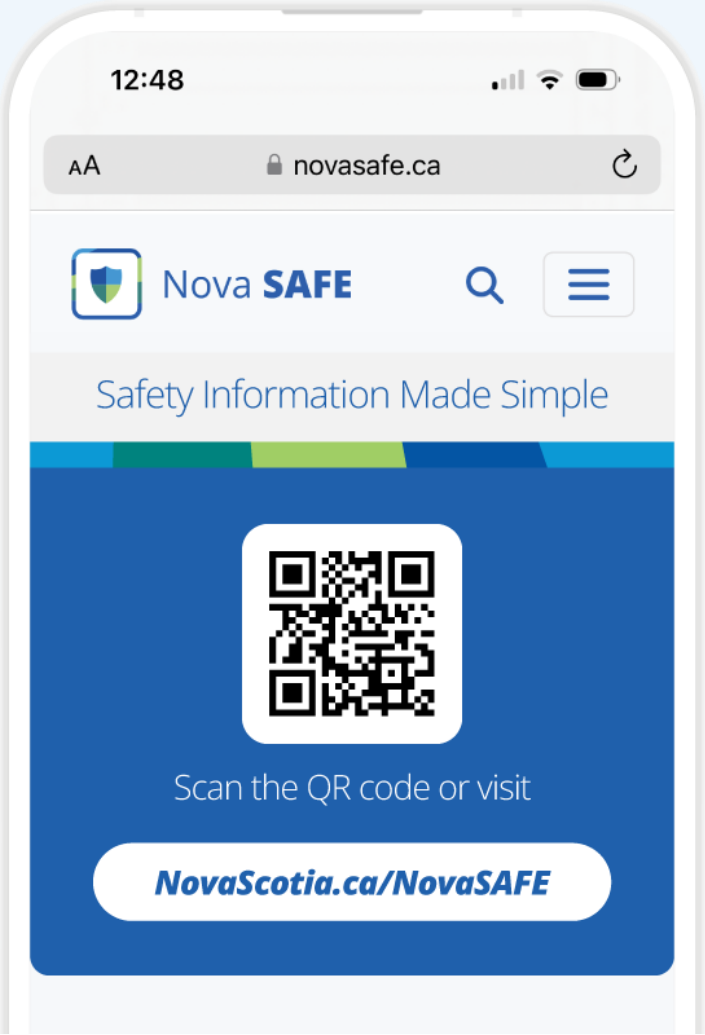
NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE

Nova SAFE — Eight New Safety Topics Added

Nova SAFE is an online resource providing a modern and convenient way for Nova Scotian employers, supervisors, and workers to access essential safety information. The Safety Branch is continually updating Nova SAFE, adding new content, safety topics, and trusted resources.

In our recent July 2024 update, the following eight new safety topics have been added to the mobile-friendly site, available in both English and French (click on the search buttons below to learn more):

- Air Quality
- Conveyor Safety
- First Aid
- Formwork and Shoring
- Industrial Lift Trucks
- Mobile Work Platforms
- Power Engineering
- Vibration



Find plain language summaries, helpful definitions, direct links to legislation, and more—all on Nova SAFE, Safety Information Made Simple.

Workplace First Aid — Revisions for 2024

In Nova Scotia, first aid requirements for the workplace are covered under Part 4 of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations (WHSR). Part 4 references two Canadian Standards Association (CSA) publications. CSA Z1210 “First aid training for the workplace – Curriculum and quality management for training agencies” establishes minimum standards for first aid training, and CSA Z1220 “First aid kits for the workplace” likewise establishes minimum requirements for the contents of first aid kits.

Both standards were revised and published in April 2024. Nova Scotia has adopted these standards as “ambulatory”, which means the latest version is automatically adopted under the regulations. As with all standards incorporated by reference (Section 1.6 WHSR), there is a four-month window in which both the old and new standards are acceptable for compliance with the regulations. The new standards must be followed after August 1, 2024.

Most of the changes in both standards apply primarily to providers of first aid training or suppliers of first aid kits. However, there are two changes that may have direct impact on first aid in the workplace; allowance for first aid refresher training and changes to first aid kit contents.

Continued >

First Aid Refresher Training

Under the revised CSA Z1210 training standard, training providers may now offer refresher training to someone with a valid first aid certificate, rather than require completion of the full training to recertify. Recertification requires the first aider to demonstrate competency in both knowledge and skills components, as per their original certification training. If you are interested in refresher training, speak to your first aid provider to see if that offer it as an option.

There are minor changes to the contents of first aid kits, with a few additions and changes in number of some supplies. First aid kits must be regularly inspected to ensure the completeness and to replenish kit supplies and equipment that have been used or expired. Workplaces should refer to the noted changes when inspecting their kits to ensure they are in compliance with the current standard and the regulations.

In addition, when purchasing new kits for the workplace, check to see if they are compliant with the 2024 version of the CSA standard.

Publication: Workplace First Aid: A Guide for Employers and First Aiders

First Aid Kit Contents

TYPE 1: Personal First Aid Kit	
Emergency Blanket, aluminized, min 132cmx213cm (52in x 84in) [1]	New requirement
Antibiotic Ointment, topical, single use [2]	No longer required
TYPE 2: Basic First Aid Kit	
Torniquet, for arterial bleeds [1]	New requirement
Antibiotic Ointment, topical, single use [2]	No longer required
Abdominal pad, sterile, individually wrapped, 12.7 × 22.9 cm (5 in × 9 in)	Increase number in kit from 2 to 4
TYPE 3: Intermediate First Kit	
Abdominal pad, sterile, individually wrapped, 12.7 × 22.9 cm (5 in × 9 in)	Increase number from: 1 (Small Kit), 2 (Medium Kit) and 4 (Large Kit) to 2 (Small (Kit), 4 (Medium Kit) and 6 (Large Kit)
Antibiotic Ointment, topical, single use [2]	No longer required
Glucose tablets, 4 g (10 per package) or acceptable alternative	Change to: "A source of glucose as recommended by Diabetes Canada"

Note: Although antibiotic ointment is no longer a mandatory kit requirement, it can still be included as an optional component.

Nova Scotia's WHMIS Rules Updated

Nova Scotia's Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) rules are part of an interlocking national system that protects the health and safety of employees who work with or who are at risk of exposure to hazardous products in the workplace.

Like all other provinces, Nova Scotia has now updated its WHMIS rules to align with changes that were made in 2015 to the federal Hazardous Products Act and regulations with adoption of the Globally Harmonized System of Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Our updated WHMIS rules are now included as Part 3 of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations (WHSR) under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The former WHMIS Regulations have been repealed.

For most workplaces that have been complying with the former WHMIS Regulations, complying with the updated rules should require only minor adjustments. Since new federal requirements have been fully in effect since 2018, most workplaces will already be familiar with changes that have affected hazardous product labels and safety data sheets. However, as part of the WHSR, the WHMIS requirements now explicitly apply to self-employed persons as well as to employers and employees.

The updated rules also clarify an important difference between general WHMIS education and workplace-specific training. Both are required. SkillsOnlineNS offers a free online course that provides a convenient way to satisfy the general education requirement for those who are not already familiar with WHMIS. Practical guidance for meeting training requirements is also available.

While the updated WHMIS rules came into force on June 18, 2024, a six-month transition period is provided for compliance.

Heat Stress

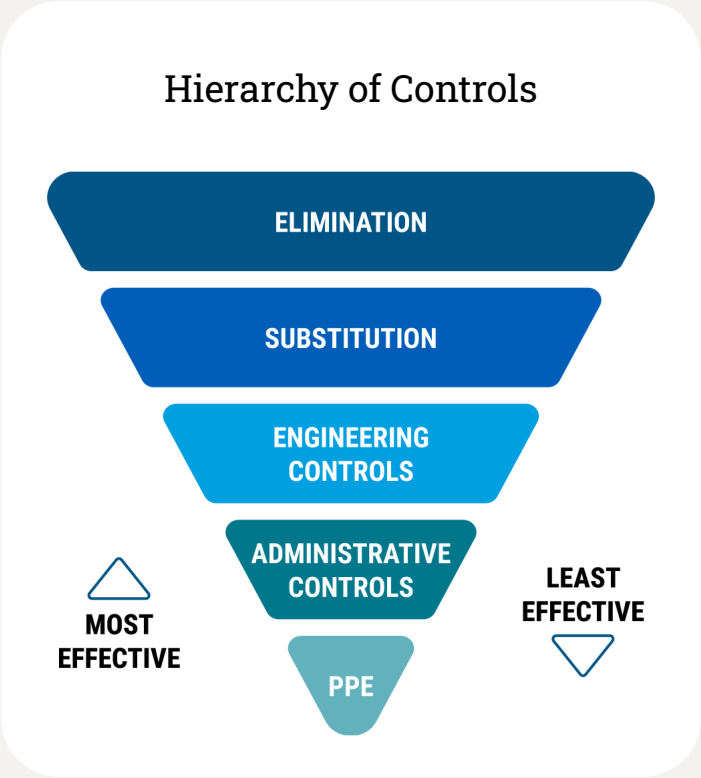
Whether your work is indoors or outdoors, employees should be trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of heat stress. If possible, consider starting a "buddy system" because sometimes it's hard for workers to notice their own symptoms. Learn more: Heat Stress (Safety Alert)

How To Choose A Hazard Control Measure

There are many options to consider when choosing a workplace hazard control measure. The most widely accepted way to identify and rank hazard controls is called the “hierarchy of controls” model. The hierarchy of controls (HOC) model is a proven, practical, step-by-step approach to eliminating or reducing workplace hazards.

The HOC model is consistent with the current requirements in the Occupational Health and Safety Act in Nova Scotia. The HOC model can help you to identify the most reliable and effective method that is also cost effective for your workplace.

The HOC model ranks the controls from most to least effective. To use this model, first consider the most effective and reliable control method. Feasibility can then be assessed at each stage in the model until a suitable control measure is identified. The different levels of controls include:



Elimination: This is the process of removing the hazard from the workplace. It is the most effective and preferred method of risk control, as it completely removes the hazard and therefore removes the risk of injury and illness.

Substitution: This involves replacing a hazard with a less hazardous alternative. An example of is selecting the least hazardous chemical product that is suitable for a task.

Engineering Controls: These are controls that prevent hazards from coming into contact with employees. This is accomplished by building engineering controls into the design of a plant, equipment, or process. This minimizes hazards and provides reliable protection for workers. A fume hood is an example of an engineering control that is commonly used in laboratories.

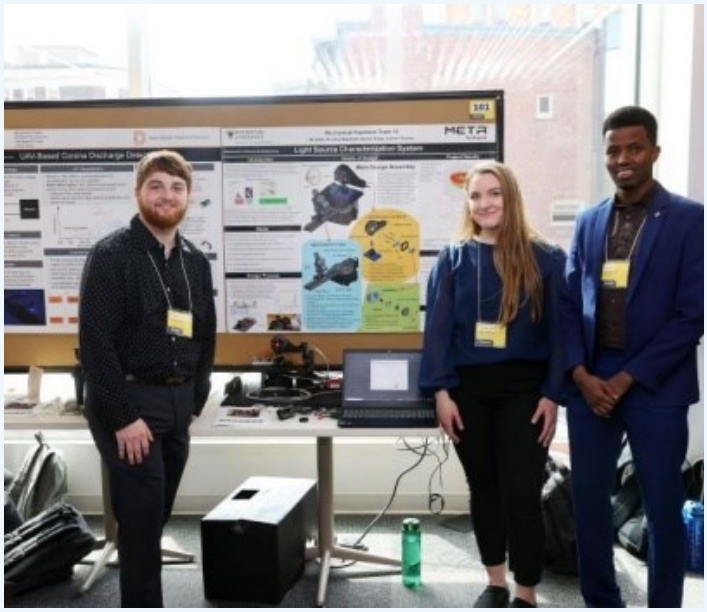
Administrative Controls: This step reduces the impact of a hazard by changing procedures in the workplace. Examples of this in practice include developing work practices or providing training and education.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): This includes anything a worker wears to help protect themselves from a workplace hazard. Although PPE can be effective, using PPE consistently can be a challenge. Generally, PPE should be used only when more reliable controls are not practicable, or the hazard is a result of an emergency.

The HOC model supports an effective and consistent risk-based approach to workplace health and safety that is apparent in many parts of Canada. Additional information can be found on the CCOHS website.

Dalhousie Capstone Program

Tapping into today's emerging issues with the guidance of tomorrow's engineers: the Occupational Health and Safety Division's Engineering and Science Team collaborates with the Dalhousie Capstone Program.



Like many great projects, this one started as an identified opportunity to lead into one of our Engineering and Science Team's most important goals: to identify emerging health and safety issues.

When we understand the emerging issues that affect our external interested parties, we are in a better position to collaborate with them at an early stage of change and have a positive impact on workplace health and safety.

Enter the idea to reach out to the Dalhousie Capstone Program, which matches teams of engineering students with partners from industry, "providing real problems from industry for teams to solve."

We did our homework. In April of 2022, a small contingent of our Engineering and Science Team attended the Dalhousie Capstone Conference held at the Westin that year and had the chance to take in presentations across the range of engineering disciplines. It became clear that engaging with the Capstone Program would be a remarkable way to find out about emerging issues and identify workplace health and safety connections.

Our first year of work with the Dalhousie Capstone Conference followed in the Fall of 2023 and included presentations to 4 Capstone Project Classes, and the third year Industrial Engineering Ergonomics Class. In these classes, we covered why occupational health and safety was important, the role of an engineer in occupational health and safety, and managing health and safety risks. The following spring, we attended the Capstone poster presentations as judges and visitors.

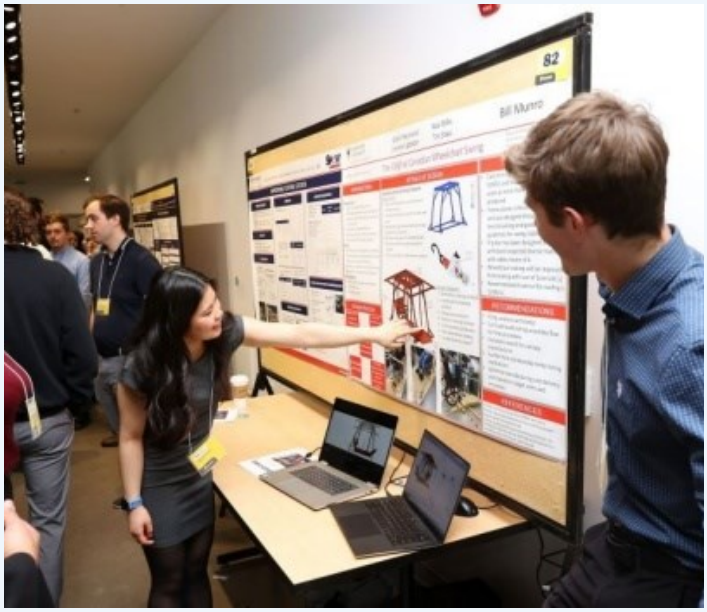
Our Engineering and Science Team has just completed out second year of work. This year we had a presence in 6 classrooms, adding the fourth year Industrial Engineering Project Management Class to our contact list, and reaching almost 200 students in total. We extended our collaborative effort to the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia, with the WCB Ergonomist joining us in the classroom.

Continued >

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

This spring, we attended the Capstone poster presentations as judges and visitors, identifying emerging issues as well as novel solutions to challenges that we have already seen coming into the workplaces that we visit.

We have been encouraged by this opportunity to work with young people and shine a light on workplace health and safety at an early point in their career journeys. Looking to their safety a new workers entering the workforce, and their impact as emerging professionals who will carry the responsibilities of an engineer under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, plans are already underway for our work next year.



Make Your Move At Work

There are many easy ways to add more movement to your workday, and doing so has the potential to bring about many benefits, such as increased energy, focus, productivity and an improved sense of well-being.

To learn more about developing a culture of movement in your workplace, visit the Make Your Move At Work website and complete the online form to access the toolkit.

Website: Make Your Move At Work

Psychological Health & Safety

Enhance workplace Psychological Health and Safety with WCB Nova Scotia's recently launched Resource Centre. Find useful tools and resources, key principles, and best practices to help prevent and manage psychological injuries. Learn more: Psychological Health & Safety Resource Centre (WCB)

Engineering Requirements for Hoists (Webinar)

On April 10, 2024, the Engineering and Science team from the Safety Branch's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Division hosted a webinar on Engineering Requirements for Hoists in Nova Scotia, featuring engineers Leslie Anne Bateman, Darrell Thompson, and Colleen Rodgerson.

The webinar aimed to raise awareness within the engineering community about the nature of engineering work required for hoists under the OHS Act and highlighted regulatory requirements.

While the discussed requirements apply to all hoists, the webinar primarily focused on those used within the fishing industry. Over 200 participants registered to attend, with many others choosing to wait for the recording due to scheduling conflicts.

For those that missed it, the webinar is now available on the Safety Branch YouTube Playlist.

WORKPLACE SAFETY
WEBINAR SERIES

Webinar: Engineering Requirements for Hoists

Safety Branch YouTube Playlist

Support your orientation and training programs with the Safety Branch YouTube Playlist. You'll find informative safety videos that can assist with onboarding new employees, enhance your team meetings, and reinforce safety training.

Explore topics like "What to Expect When an OHS Officer Visits Your Workplace," "Internal Responsibility System," "Wait to Inflate," and more! You'll also find past recordings of our live webinars and multi-language options.

Remember to bookmark the link, as we're frequently uploading new videos and content.

View: Safety Branch YouTube Playlist

Fall Protection

Falls can happen while working from any height, including ladders, work-platforms, roofs, and scaffolds. When exposed to the risk of falling, a fall protection system may be all that keeps a worker from being seriously injured. Learn more: Fall Protection (Nova SAFE)

New JOHSC Guide

Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees (JOHSC) and Health and Safety Representatives are an essential part of an effective health and safety program. They connect employers with employees, working together to improve workplace safety by identifying hazards and recommending ways to eliminate or control them.

Our newly updated practical guide provides important plain language information about the establishment, maintenance, and operation of a JOHSC or Health and Safety Representative, as well as their roles and responsibilities.

Available in:
English or French

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(formerly known as Twitter)

The Signal

We'd love to hear from you.

Providing your feedback will help us continually improve our newsletter and include more of the content you'd like to see.

Feedback Survey

Wildfire Prevention

We are currently in the middle of wildfire season where the hot and dry weather makes the risk of wildfires very high. While the province's firefighting resources are at the ready, we are asking Nova Scotians to do everything they can to prevent wildfires from starting in the first place.

In Nova Scotia, almost all wildfires are caused by people, so prevention is our first line of defence. As part of that effort, we are encouraging our safety colleagues, partners, and interested parties to help share wildfire prevention information with your employees, members, and audiences.

You can find the most up to date information, as well as the burning restrictions map (updated daily at 2:00pm) by visiting:

- novascotia.ca/burnsafe (English)
- novascotia.ca/burnsafe/fr (Français)

We also encourage you to follow and share social media posts from the following accounts:

- x.com/NS_DNRR
- x.com/nsgov
- facebook.com/nsgov
- instagram.com/nsgov

Please note: Consumer fireworks are banned by the Office of the Fire Marshal when the burning restriction map is red. Fireworks are allowed by professional firework companies that have permits and proper fire equipment/measures.

Sky lanterns are completely banned in Nova Scotia. These devices are uncontrollable and often cause fires when they land in forests or on structures.

Special Thanks To Our Contributors

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Safety Branch by the Numbers

Reporting period: Jan 1, 2024 to Jun 30, 2024

1814 Workplace Inspections

14 Opened OHS Investigations

1847

Total Inquiries

1275 Occupational Health and Safety

572 Technical Safety

Serious Injuries

Serious Incidents

Workplace Fatalities

3 Acute / **3** Chronic

1225	73	0	46
Orders Issued	Administrative Penalties	Summary Offence Tickets	Charges Laid

MAKE THE RIGHT CALL.

Call **1-800-9LABOUR** for workplace and public space safety issues, concerns and regulations.

Safety Information Made Simple

- Plain language summaries
- Helpful definitions
- Direct links to legislation
- Additional resources

Scan the QR code or visit

NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE

The Signal

Safety Branch
Labour, Skills and Immigration